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BRIERLEY HILL
URBAN
DISTRICT COUNCIL



REPORT

on the Work of the
**PUBLIC HEALTH
DEPARTMENT**

for 1943.

NORMAN V. HEPPLER,
Medical Officer of Health.

H. J. PARKER,
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

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BRIERLEY HILL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Chairman of the Council :
Councillor H. HADEN, J.P.

Vice-Chairman :
Councillor J. N. HICKMAN, J.P., C.C.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman :
Councillor T. WILLIAMS, M.B.E.

Vice-Chairman :
Councillor H. HADEN.

All Members of the Council are Members of this
Committee.

BRIERLEY HILL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health :

*N. V. HEPPLE, M.D., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.
(Also Assistant County Medical Officer of Health for Staffordshire
and Medical Superintendent, West Midlands Joint Hospital Board).

Chief Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent :

*H. J. PARKER, M.S.I.A., Cert. R.S.I., Cert. Meat and Foods
Inspector.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors :

*J. W. BILLINGHAM, M.S.I.A., Cert. S.I.B., Cert. Meat and Foods
Inspector.

*W. H. BOWMAN, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Cert. S.I.B., Cert. Meat
and Foods Inspector.

A. E. SILCOX (Unqualified).

Veterinary Inspectors :

D. J. ANTHONY, M.R.C.V.S., D.V.S.M.

D. HOWIE, M.R.C.V.S., D.V.S.M.

Bacteriologist :

Dr. J. L. EDWARDS

Bacteriological Laboratory, County Buildings, Stafford.

Analyst :

E. V. JONES, Esq., County Buildings, Stafford.

Tuberculosis Officer :

Dr. D. J. LOUGHRAN

Tuberculosis Dispensary, Parsons Street, Dudley.

Clerical Staff :

†N. BELLAMY

C. I. SOUTHALL, Housing Visitor.

J. M. HALL

D. A. WARNER

B. M. YEARSLEY

B. D. COMPSON

D. E. BOOT.

*Salary Contributions made by Exchequer Grants.

†H.M. Forces.

BRIERLEY HILL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year ending 31st December, 1943.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE URBAN
DISTRICT COUNCIL OF BRIERLEY HILL.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Hodgetts and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my sixth Annual Report on the work of your Public Health Department.

Once again the report is in an abbreviated form, in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health.

The health of the people has remained satisfactory throughout the year, a fact which is particularly pleasing when it is remembered that this the fifth year of the war.

The year was marked by an epidemic of diphtheria in the Pensnett part of the area, but no other infectious disease gave very much trouble. As will be seen from the figures in the body of the report, the campaign for immunisation has made good progress during the year, and further proof has been obtained of the value of the procedure.

The birth rate, after a remarkable rise last year, has risen still further and is now higher than at any time since the district was formed. It may be that this rise is of a temporary character.

A great deal of time has been spent by the Department in dealing with housing difficulties. Repairs to property have been difficult to secure and the Authority will undoubtedly have to contend with acute housing shortage, with its consequent evils of overcrowding and ill health, in the next few years. Some idea of the magnitude of the problem can be formed when we remember that in this area there are 755 families sharing a Council house with one or more families and that it is estimated that three thousand new houses will be the minimum required to deal with cases from unfit or overcrowded houses in the next ten years.

The Council are alive to the situation and during the year have adopted a town planning scheme which will act as a master plan to secure the proper siting of new buildings, and result in an integrated design for the Brierley Hill of the future, with open spaces, community centres, playing fields and so on properly related to the dwellings of the people.

I have to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council, the Clerk and other officers and the staff of the Department for their continued consideration, helpfulness and courtesy.

I have the honour to be

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Hodgetts and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

N. V. HEPPLÉ,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

Statistics.

Area (in acres)	5,932
Rateable Value (1st April, 1943)	£174,181
Sum represented by a Penny Rate, 1943-44	£660

SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

There has been very little unemployment in the area during the year.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1943.**Live Births.**

	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	880	436	444
Illegitimate	18	10	8
Total	<u>898</u>	<u>446</u>	<u>452</u>

Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated population : 20·18.

Still Births.

	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	34	19	15
Illegitimate	1	—	1
Total	<u>35</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>16</u>

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births : 37·51.

Deaths.

Total	Males	Females
525	286	239

Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated population : 11·80.

Owing to various causes it is not possible to give a comparability factor this year. The Death Rate is therefore unadjusted.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.			Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births
Puerperal Sepsis	..	..	2
Other Maternal causes	..	..	2
			—
			4
			—
			4·28
			—

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	56·79
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	52·34
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	222·22
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	..	..	..	1
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	..	..	0
Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	..	..	..	0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	..	..	..	59

NOTES ON VITAL STATISTICS.

Births.

The Birth Rate of 20·18 per 1,000 population is above the average of 16·5 for England and Wales, and compares with a rate of 19·17 for 1942.

Deaths.

The Death Rate of 11·80 for the area compares with 10·76 for 1942, and 12·1 for the country as a whole. The chief causes of death were Heart Disease, Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions, Cancer, Bronchitis, and Tuberculosis, which together caused almost two-thirds of the total deaths.

Natural Increase of Population.

The number of births exceeded the number of deaths by 373.

Infantile Mortality.

The Infantile Mortality rate of 56·79 per 1,000 live births is higher than the previous year, 50·00. The Infantile mortality rate for the country as a whole is 49·00.

Maternal Mortality.

The total rate of 4·28 per 1,000 total births compares with a rate of 2·29 for the country as a whole. The maternal mortality rate from puerperal infection was 2·14.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S RETURN.

TABLE I.

Diseases.	1943		Total.
	Male.	Female.	
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal fever	—	—	—
Scarlet fever	—	—	—
Whooping cough	—	—	—
Diphtheria	4	2	6
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	20	12	32
Other forms of tuberculosis	3	4	7
Syphilitic diseases	1	1	2
Influenza	5	4	9
Measles	1	—	1
Acute polio-myelitis and polio-encephalitis ..	—	—	—
Acute infective encephalitis	—	1	1
Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (M) and uterus (F)	4	2	6
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	6	7	13
Cancer of breast	—	10	10
Cancer of all other sites	19	11	30
Diabetes	1	7	8
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	38	33	71
Heart disease	44	34	78
Other diseases of circulatory system	6	6	12
Bronchitis	28	28	56
Pneumonia	10	7	17
Other respiratory diseases	6	6	12
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	7	—	7
Diarrhoea	—	—	—
Appendicitis	2	2	4
Other digestive disorders	5	2	7
Nephritis	5	5	10
Puerperal and post-abortion sepsis	—	2	2
Other maternal causes	—	2	2
Premature birth	13	8	21
Congenital malformation, birth injury, infantile disorders	6	2	8
Suicide	3	2	5
Road traffic accidents	5	—	5
Other violent causes	13	7	20
All other causes	31	32	63
	286	239	525
	286	239	525

Birthrates. Civilian Death Rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case rates for certain infectious diseases in the Year.

TABLE II.

	England and Wales	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns Resident Popula- tions 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census	London Admin'tve County	Brierley Hill
Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population.					
Births :					
Live Births.. ..	16.5	18.6	19.4	15.8	20.18
Still Births	0.51	0.63	0.61	0.45	0.78
Deaths :					
All Causes	12.1	14.2	12.7	15.0	11.80
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Scarlet Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough ..	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.00
Diphtheria	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.02	0.13
Influenza	0.37	0.36	0.37	0.27	0.20
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02
Rates per 1,000 Live Births.					
Death under 1 year of age	49	58	46	58	56.79
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age ..	5.3	7.9	4.4	10.4	0.00
Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population.					
Notifications :					
Typhoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01	—
Paratyphoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	0.08	0.10	0.06	0.09	—
Scarlet Fever	3.01	3.29	3.54	3.80	3.80
Whooping Cough ..	2.54	2.82	2.25	2.68	3.25
Diphtheria	0.88	1.12	0.77	0.74	3.55
Erysipelas	0.31	0.35	0.27	0.42	0.33
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	9.88	9.23	9.77	9.17	8.44
Pneumonia	1.34	1.62	1.16	1.27	1.16
Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still) :—					
(a) Notifications :					
Puerperal Fever	} 11.68	15.11	9.26	{ 3.05 15.23 *	} 10.71
Puerperal Pyrexia ..					
--Including Puerperal Fever.					

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Public Officers of the Local Authority.

Changes in staff are referred to briefly on page 4.

Laboratory Facilities.

Pathological and bacteriological specimens are sent to the County Laboratory at Stafford. No charge is made by this Laboratory for the examination of these specimens.

Advantage is taken of these facilities by the general practitioners of the town and by this Department.

Ambulance Facilities.

The Ambulance Service is run in conjunction with the Civil Defence Ambulance Service. One ambulance and one car are provided by the Local Authority.

During the year the following work was carried out :—

Mileage	..	..	..	..	18,889
Accidents	..	..	..	..	91
Emergency calls	..	..	..	..	302
Non-emergency calls	..	..	..	..	935
Treatment cases	..	..	..	..	674

Post Mortem Room.

12 bodies were brought to the Post Mortem Room during the year. In the case of 5 of them death was due to natural causes. 4 were cases of accidental death. In 2 cases death was due to suicide, and in 1 to misadventure. None was of an infectious nature. The average length of stay was $4\frac{1}{3}$ days.

Nursing in the Home.

Five Nursing Associations at present operate in the district.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

The following School Clinics, Infant Welfare and Ante-Natal

Centres are held in the areas :—

Refraction Clinics and Dental Sessions are held as required at the above Centres.

	School Clinics.	Infant Welfare Centre.	Ante-Natal Centre.
	Monday. Tuesday. Wednesday and Friday.		
Brierley Hill : (Church Hill) ...	9—12 noon.	Tuesday and Friday 2—5 p.m.	Thursday 2—5 p.m.
Quarry Bank : (Mount Pleasant)	Wednesday, 9—12 noon.	Wednesday, 2—5 p.m.	Friday (fortnightly) 10—12 noon.
Wordsley : (Methodist Buildings, New Street) ...	Monday, 9—12 p.m.	Monday, 2—5 p.m.	— —
Kingswinford : (Methodist Buildings, Moss Grove) ...	Tuesday, 9—12 noon	Tuesday, 2—5 p.m.	Thursday 10—12 noon.
Pensnett : (Methodist Schoolrooms)	9—12 noon.	Thursday,	
Brockmoor : (St. John's Schoolrooms)	Friday, 9—12 noon	Friday, 2—5 p.m.	—

HOSPITALS.

Hospitals provided or subsidised by the Local Authority or by the County Council.

(1) Infectious Diseases.

The area is served by the hospitals of the West Midlands Joint Hospital Board, situated at Kingswinford, Moxley, Bilston and Wombourne.

(2) Small-Pox Hospital.

This hospital is situated at Moxley and is under the control of a Small-Pox Joint Hospital Board, of which Brierley Hill is a constituent Authority. This hospital has been taken over by the West Midlands Joint Hospital Board as a hospital for infectious diseases, and other arrangements have been made for Small-Pox cases if they occur.

(3) Sanatoria.

The male sanatorium is at Prestwood, and the sanatoria for women are at Yarnfield (near Stone), Groundslow and Kinver. Cases of surgical tuberculosis are treated at Standon Hall and The Woodlands, and there is a special sanatorium for children at Himley.

(4) Orthopædic.

The County have provided for the specialist treatment of these cases in special clinics and they are referred to hospital if they require in-patient treatment.

(5) Wordsley Emergency Hospital.

This hospital is maintained by the County Council as a Grade I. Emergency Hospital. It takes patients referred by the Public Assistance Committee.

(6) Other.

There are no other provided hospitals, but the following general hospitals are within easy reach of the Urban District :—

Corbett Hospital, Amblecote.

Guest Hospital, Dudley.

There are also the hospitals of Birmingham and Wolverhampton, all of which are within easy reach of the district.

Midwifery and Maternity Services.

There are 9 registered midwives practising in the area ; 8 of these are whole-time salaried midwives employed by Nursing Associations under arrangements made by the County Council as a result of the Midwives' Act, 1936.

Maternity and Nursing Homes.

The maternity block at Wordsley Emergency Hospital, which was closed at the outbreak of war, was re-opened by the County Council with eight beds during the year.

SECTION C.**SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.****Water Supply.**

The district is served by two Companies. The Stourbridge and District Water Board supply 1,725 houses at Wordsley, the major

portion of the area being served by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company.

The supply in both cases is obtained from deep wells and bore holes in the new red sandstone to depths varying from 200 to 500 feet. Regular analyses are taken both by the supplying companies and by this Department, and the results are satisfactory.

The following are typical reports :—

THE SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE WATERWORKS CO.

Count. On nutrient agar after 48 hours' incubation at 37°C.4....colonies per ml.

On nutrient agar after 72 hours' incubation at 20—22°C.9....colonies per ml.

Coli Aerogenes Content (presumptive coli) ..Nil..per 100 ml. after 48 hours' incubation at 37°C.

Analysis.					Parts per 100,000
Total Solid Matter dried at 212°F .. ..	..	..	..	..	40·50
Free and Saline Ammonia .. ..	..	..	..	..	0·0024
Albuminoid Ammonia .. ..	..	..	..	..	0·0015
Nitric Nitrogen .. ..	..	..	..	..	0·94
Chlorine .. ..	..	..	..	..	4·4
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80°F .. ..	..	..	..	..	0·003
Appearance .. ..	..	..	..	..	Clear
Injurious Metallic Contamination .. ..	..	..	..	..	None
pH Value .. ..	..	..	..	..	7·0
Free Chlorine .. ..	..	..	..	..	Nil

STOURBRIDGE AND DISTRICT WATER BOARD.

Count. On nutrient agar after 48 hours' incubation at 37°C.6....colonies per ml.

On nutrient agar after 72 hours' incubation at 20—22°C.12....colonies per ml.

Coli Aerogenes Content (Presumptive coli)Nil....per 100 ml. after 48 hours' incubation at 37°C.

Analysis.						Parts per 100,000
Total Solid Matter dried at 212°F	..	..	..	..	..	55.50
Free and Saline Ammonia	..	..	..	..	..	0.0010
Albuminoid Ammonia	..	..	..	..	..	0.0018
Nitric Nitrogen	..	..	..	..	..	1.43
Chlorine	..	..	..	..	..	5.8
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80°F	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Appearance	..	..	..	..	..	Clear
Injurious Metallic Contamination	..	..	..	..	..	None
pH Value	..	..	..	..	..	7.1
Free Chlorine	..	..	..	part per million	..	0.20

There are seven dwelling houses in the area which have no piped water supply, depending on private wells.

Drainage and Sewage Disposal.

There were no changes of note during the year.

Public Cleansing.

The matter is dealt with in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

Housing work is referred to in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

MEAT CONDEMNED, 1943 — SHEEP.

Diseases.	Carcases	Heads	Lungs	Hearts	Livers	Stomachs	Spleens	Kidneys	In- testines	Other Parts
Pleurisy and Pneumonia	—	—	212	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pericarditis	—	—	6457	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Muelleriasis	—	—	752	71	988	—	—	—	—	—
Hydatid Cysts	—	8	—	—	1704	—	1	1	—	—
Fascioliasis	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Bac. Necrosis	—	—	—	—	9	6	6	13	6	3 Fq. 2 Hq.
Pyæmia	6	10	9	9	2	1	1	2	1	3 Fq. 2 Hq.
Bruising	2	2	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	7 Fq. 8 Hq.
Arthritis	—	—	—	—	6	6	6	12	6	—
Oedema	6	6	6	6	3	3	3	6	3	—
Jaundice	3	3	3	3	4	3	3	6	3	—
Decomposition	3	4	4	4	1	1	1	2	1	—
Fevered Flesh	1	1	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	2 Hq. 5 Flanks
Peritonitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2 Fq.
Empyæma	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1 Hq.
Fractures	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Died in transit	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	20	10	—
Totals	31	44	7456	110	2730	30	31	62	30	15 Foreqrs. 15 Hindqrs. 5 Flanks

MEAT CONDEMNED, 1943 — CALVES.

Diseases.	Carcases	Heads	Lungs	Hearts	Livers	Stomachs	Spleens	Kidneys	In- testines	Other Parts.
Tuberculosis	1	1	10	10	13	1	8	2	1	—
Pleurisy and Pneumonia	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Arthritis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Empyaema	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1 Fq.
Pyæmia	—	1	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—
Peritonitis	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	—	—
Melanosis	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Decomposition	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Oedema and Emaciation	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	—
Jaundice	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	—
Died in Transit	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	—
Died in Lairage	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	—
Totals	7	7	21	15	25	6	15	11	6	1 Foreqr.

MEAT CONDEMNED, 1943 — CATTLE.

Diseases.	Carcases	Heads	Lungs	Hearts	Livers	Stomachs	Spleens	Kidneys	In- testines	Other Parts.
Actinobacillosis	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7 Tongues
Actinomycosis	..	24	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1 Sh. udder
Tuberculosis	..	505	1000	481	342	290	288	455	430	{ 107 Fq. 17 Hq. 1 Flank
Pleurisy and Pneumonia	1	1	363	1	1	1	1	2	1	—
Pericarditis	2	3	3	10	3	3	3	4	2	2 Fq.
Hydatid Cysts	1	1	469	1	297	1	7	8	1	—
Fascioliasis	..	—	—	—	848	—	—	—	—	—
Bac. Necrosis	1	1	1	1	31	1	1	2	1	—
Cav. Angiomata	..	—	—	—	115	—	—	—	—	—
Pyæmia	..	2	1	1	16	—	1	1	—	1 Hq.
Peritonitis	2	2	2	2	59	30	31	4	14	1 Flank
Gastritis	..	—	—	—	—	35	—	—	—	—
Oedema and Emaciation	38	38	38	38	38	38	38	76	38	—
Bruising	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	{ 8 Fq. 4 Hq. 5 Flanks 3 Briskets
Nephritis	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—
Hydronephrosis	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—
John's Disease	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	—
Fractures	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1 Fq. 3 Hq.
Mastitis	..	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	674 Udders
Cirrhosis	..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Congestion	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteritis	..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Lipomata	..	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Papillomata	..	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Fibromata	..	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Died in transit	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	—	—	—
Died in Lairage	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	—
Totals	271	581	1882	539	1755	406	380	570	492	7 Tongues 118 Fqs 25 Hqs. 7 Flanks 3 Brskts. 674 U'dr 3 Briskets 674 Udders

Tables showing percentage of pathological conditions encountered in the course of meat inspection.

PIGS.			SHEEP.		
Tuberculosis	10%		Muelleriasis	26%	
Pleurisy and Pneumonia	6%		Fascioliasis	7%	
Peritonitis	2%		Hydatid Cysts	4%	
Pericarditis	2%		Pleurisy and Pneumonia	1%	
Hydronephrosis	2%		Arthritis	0.06%	
Cirrhosis	0.5%		Pyæmia	0.06%	
Congestion	0.5%		Bruising	0.02%	
Hydatid Cyst	0.5%		Peritonitis	0.02%	
Fatty Infiltration	0.03%		Oedema	0.02%	
Pyæmia	0.03%		Pericarditis	0.02%	
Fascioliasis	0.3%		Decomposition	0.02%	
Swine Erysipelas	0.01%		Jaundice	0.01%	
Muelleriasis	0.01%		Empyæma	0.008%	
Fractures	0.01%		Fractures	0.004%	
Ascarides	0.01%		Bacterial Necrosis	0.004%	
Rachitis	0.01%		Fevered Flesh	0.004%	
Paratyphoid	0.003%				
Nephritis	0.001%		Died in Transit	0.004%	
Oedema	0.001%				
Cavernous Angioma	0.001%		CATTLE.		
Endocarditis	0.001%		Tuberculosis	18%	
Fevered Flesh	0.001%		Mastitis	12%	
Empyæma	0.001%		Fascioliasis	15%	
Hernia	0.001%		Hydatid Cysts	8%	
Decomposition	0.001%		Pleurisy and Pneumonia	6%	
			Cavernous Angioma	2%	
Died in Transit	0.05%		Peritonitis	1%	
Died in Lairage	0.001%		Emaciation and Oedema	0.7%	
CALVES.			Gastritis	0.7%	
Tuberculosis	0.3%		Bacterial Necrosis	0.6%	
Pyæmia	0.1%		Actinomycosis	0.4%	
Pleurisy and Pneumonia	0.1%		Bruising	0.4%	
Peritonitis	0.06%		Pyæmia	0.3%	
Arthritis	0.02%		Actinobacillosis	0.1%	
Empyæma	0.02%		Congestion	0.1%	
Melanosis	0.02%		Nephritis	0.1%	
Decomposition	0.02%		Hydronephrosis	0.1%	
Emaciation	0.02%		Fractures	0.07%	
Jaundice	0.02%		John's Disease	0.01%	
			Cirrhosis	0.01%	
Died in Transit	0.02%		Enteritis	0.01%	
Died in Lairage	0.02%		Lipomata	0.01%	
			Papillomata	0.01%	
			Fibromata	0.01%	
			Died in Transit	0.01%	
			Died in Lairage	0.01%	

**POST-MORTEM EXAMINATIONS ON ANIMALS HAVING
DIED A NATURAL DEATH.**

Cause of Death.	Pigs	Sheep	Cattle	Calves	Totals
Pneumonia	10	2	—	—	12
Tuberculosis	1	—	—	—	1
Empyæma	—	1	—	—	1
Entero-Toxaemia	—	3	—	—	3
Still-born	—	—	—	1	1
Internal Haemorrhage	2	4	2	—	8
Uterine Rupture	—	2	—	—	2
Parturient Eclampsia	—	2	—	—	2
Suffocation	4	3	—	—	7
Enteritis	1	3	—	1	5
Swine Erysipelas	3	—	—	—	3
Septicaemia	—	3	—	—	3
Tetanus	—	1	—	—	1
Tympanites	1	—	—	—	1
Gangrene	—	1	—	—	1
Fatty Degeneration					
Liver	—	1	—	—	1
Bruising	—	3	—	—	3
Syncope	14	2	—	1	17
Totals	36	31	2	3	72

SECTION F. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

TABLE III.

No. of cases originally notified during year ended December 31st, 1943, and of Fatal numbers after corrections of diagnosis, etc.

Ages (NK = unknown)	Scar. Fever		Diphtheria		Whoop. C'gh		Measles		Ac. Poliomyelitis		Ac. Polioencephal	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Nos. originally notified												
Civilians all ages	77	92	77	80	74	79	188	187	—	—	—	—
Non-civilian all ages	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Final Nos. after correction :												
0 —	1	—	—	—	7	10	13	13	—	—	—	—
1 —	6	4	3	1	20	16	51	36	—	—	—	—
3 —	6	12	6	7	24	21	52	54	—	—	—	—
5 —	32	36	15	11	23	30	67	80	—	—	—	—
Civilians { 10 —	26	25	18	12	—	2	4	1	—	—	—	—
15 —	2	8	19	26	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—
25 and over	4	6	2	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Age NK	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Total civilians	77	91	63	64	74	79	188	187	—	—	—	—
Non. Civ. { 15 —	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
25 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
or NK	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Non-Civilians	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE III (Continued)

	Enteric or Typhoid		Paratyphoid		Ac. Pneumonia		Dysentery		Cerebro-Spinal		Ac. Encephalitis Lethargica	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Nos. originally notified :												
Civilians	28	24	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-Civilian	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Final Nos. after correction :												
0 —	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 —	—	—	8	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 —	—	—	13	9	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 —	—	—	6	8	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Age NK	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Civilians	—	—	28	24	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-Civ. { 15 — or NK	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
{ 45 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Non-Civilians	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—

TABLE III (Continued)

	Erysipelas		Smallpox		Other Notifiable Diseases	*	Orig. Not.		Final Nos.	
	M	F	M	F			M	F	M	F
Nos. originally notified										
Civilians	7	8	—	—		Civilians				
Non-Civilians	—	—	—	—	Puerperal Pyrexia			10		10
					Opthalmia		1	3	1	3
					Neonatorium					
Final Nos. after correction :										
$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 0 \\ 5 \\ 15 \\ 45 \end{array} \right.$	—	1	—	—						
.. .. .	—	—	—	—						
.. .. .	4	5	—	—						
.. .. .	1	2	—	—						
.. .. .	2	—	—	—						
65 and over	—	—	—	—						
Age NK	—	—	—	—						
Total Civilians	7	8	—	—		Non-Civilians				
Non-Civ. { 15 — or NK	—	—	—	—	Puerperal, Pyrexia			—		—
{ 45 and over	—	—	—	—						
Total Non-Civilians	—	—	—	—						

* Disease and Sex, but not Age.

Diphtheria.

159 notifications of diphtheria were received during the year, giving a rate of 3.55 per 1,000 population, as compared with a rate of 1.27 for 1942. This figure, which is the highest since the district was formed in 1934, was due to a serious epidemic during the second half of the year in the Pensnett part of the area. The source of the epidemic could not be ascertained, but it is perhaps suggestive that the epidemic occurred at the same time of year as a previous one, in which it was established that the infection was introduced by returning hop pickers.

In 30 of the cases notified the diagnosis was not confirmed on admission to hospital. The final diagnoses were :

Non diphtheritic croup	..	..	1
Tonsillitis	..	..	25
Peritonsillar infections	..	..	2
Tonsillitis in a carrier	..	..	1
Rubella	..	..	1

If these cases are deducted from the total we are left with 129 actual cases, giving a case rate of 2.90 per 1,000 population.

There were six deaths from diphtheria during the year, giving a mortality rate of 0.13 per 1,000 population, as compared with a rate of 0.03 for England and Wales, and 0.04 for the Urban areas of the country. It should be stressed particularly that **all these deaths occurred in children who had not been immunised**, i.e., in about one third of the population of children under the age of 15 years.

The second lesson can be learned from the fact that **four of the deaths were of children under the age of 5 years**. Parents are very apt to postpone immunisation until the child starts school. The figures given are a grim warning against this tendency.

Immunisation.

The work has continued during the year. All school departments are visited periodically, and the County Council Infant Welfare Centres have dealt with the pre-school children. Lantern slides, films and leaflets have been freely used, and Health Visitors and teachers have put in a lot of hard work.

Messrs. R. Pierce and A. Round very kindly designed and painted a most satisfactory indicator board for the front of the Town Hall, in which a moving shell from a gun shows on a scale the percentage of children immunised in the town. It has done a great deal to arouse public interest in the campaign.

	Under 5 years.	5 to 15 years.	Total.
Number of children immunised during 1943	914	728	1,642

	At 31st Dec., 1942		At 31st Dec., 1943	
	Under 5 years	5 to 15 years	Under 5 years	5 to 15 years
Estimated population of children ..	3614	7364	3789	7060
Estimated percentage of child population who had received complete course of immunisation	37.7	67.9	48.4	83.9

The above table shows that progress has been made during the year in the protection of children in both age groups. The saturation point has probably been reached in the school population, and it is unlikely that there will be any further increase in the percentage immunised, but a great deal of work remains to be done with the children under five years of age.

Scarlet Fever.

169 notifications were received during the year, giving a rate of 3.80 per 1,000 of the population.

Erysipelas.

15 cases were notified during the year, giving a rate of 0.33.

Pneumonia.

52 cases were notified, giving a rate of 1.16.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

10 cases were notified, giving a rate per 1,000 total births of 10.71.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

4 cases were notified, giving a rate of 0.09 per 1,000 total births.

Whooping Cough.

145 cases were notified, giving a rate of 3.25.

Measles.

376 cases were notified, giving a rate of 8.44.

Cerebro-Spinal Fever.

No cases were notified.

Scabies.

During the year there has been a considerable amount of scabies in the area. Most of the cases brought to the attention of the Department are children of school age. As scabies is very often a family infection, a child is prone after cure to re-infection from the other members of the family unless steps are taken to treat these people at the same time.

The homes of course are inspected and any others in the family who are infected are sent for treatment.

It is probable that a good deal of scabies exists in people who do not seek medical advice, and who thus act as a reservoir of infection.

The special clinic has continued during the year.

144 patients were treated and made 799 attendances. This is an increase over the figures for the preceding year. 108 of these were known to be cured. 127 treatment sessions were held during the year.

Tuberculosis.

The following Table gives particulars :

	MALES		FEMALES		Total
	Pul-monary	Non-Pul-monary	Pul-monary	Non-Pul-monary	
Number on register 1st January, 1943	152	57	152	49	410
New Notifications, 1943 ..	27	2	18	5	52
Number restored to register, having been removed in previous quarter	1	—	—	—	1
Cases brought to notice otherwise than by formal notification	1	1	—	—	2
Number removed from register 1943	24	3	23	1	51
Number on Register 31st December, 1943	157	57	147	53	414

Total deaths from tuberculosis : 39. Respiratory : 32 ; Non-respiratory : 7.

Cancer.

There were 59 deaths from cancer, giving a rate of 1.32 per 1,000 of the population.

REPORT
OF THE
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

I present herewith Report for 1943. This is again abbreviated due to the many demands on the staff and in consequence much detail has been omitted.

Generally there have been increased activities, particularly in the repair of houses due to the release, by the Government, of more labour and materials. Probably the Council may have had some hand in this as they made representations to the Ministry of Health on this matter early in 1943.

The sanitary conditions of the area have improved during the year but there are still a large number of persons living under very unsatisfactory conditions due to unfit houses.

Particular attention has been paid to the production of clean milk and efforts have been made to see that all milk coming into the area was reasonably clean.

Salvage has been consistently good — 1,162 tons being returned to industry for which £4,677 was received. Considering all things and that the greater portion of salvage is obtained from houses, the housewife in this area has done quite a good job in saving waste materials.

Since hostilities commenced additional duties, as set out below, have been undertaken in my Department and it is due, in no small measure, to the loyal assistance I have received from members of my staff that I have been able to carry out these, and still keep the general inspection work reasonably progressing.

Salvage.
Billeting.
Town Ambulance (transferred from N.F.S.)
Petrol Officer.
Rats and Mice Destruction.

In addition the following Civil Defence duties are undertaken: Transport, Ambulances, Decontamination.

During the year, Mr. Crawford, one of the District Inspectors, took up another appointment and the position has remained vacant due to the fact that no suitable applicants applied for the position at the salary advertised.

Total number of inspections made during the year were :—

Inspections	9,987
Re-inspections	4,833
Preliminary notices served during the year	288
Statutory Notices served	64

Legal Proceedings.

During the year the following proceedings were taken :

1. Obstructing Sampling Officer, Section 78 (1) Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Defendant fined £5-0-0 and ordered to pay £3-3-0 costs.
2. Failing to supply information to Sampling Officer, Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Section 78 (3). Fined £5-0-0.
3. Nuisance Order applied for under Section 93, Public Health Act, 1936. Order made and ordered to pay costs totalling £2-14-6.
4. Nuisance order applied for under Section 93, Public Health Act, 1936. Case withdrawn on payment of costs. Owner signed an agreement for the Local Authority to carry out the repairs. Work completed at a cost of £190-18-6.

Complaints.

372 complaints were recorded against 394 for 1942. 249 related to stoppages in drain pipes. The complaints relating to drain stoppages were dealt with immediately by the Department, a workman being sent to the property to relieve the nuisance.

123 of the complaints related to housing conditions, etc., all of which were investigated and where necessary action taken.

Infectious Disease Prevention.

255 visits were made to cases of Infectious Disease and 316 houses were disinfected.

Disinfestation.

During the year 196 houses have been sprayed with insecticide for bugs — 182 of these being Council houses. This large number is due to the fact that a considerable number of houses at which bugs had been previously reported were tested and found to be now free of vermin.

The question of vermin in Council houses is one which can very quickly get out of hand and it has been necessary to keep a register of all such houses and have regular visits made during the summer months. No house is removed from the register until we are 100% certain that the house is free.

Housing.

At the outbreak of hostilities this Authority's programme for Slum Clearance was 2,100 houses to be demolished and the position to date is as follows :

Houses dealt with and tenants rehoused	1,587
Houses in respect of which Clearance or other Orders are operative and from which tenants have not been rehoused	189
Total	1,776
Clearance areas declared but not confirmed	123
Houses remaining to be dealt with	201
Total	2,100

To the figure of 2,100 houses can be added many more old houses which are worn out and sub-standard. This number will continue to grow year by year until the work of Clearance recommences. This area suffers in some parts like others in the Midlands from the industrial age, when houses were erected without any regard to Town Planning, in rows with narrow streets to house workers. Practically all of these houses lack proper ammenities. These areas are now ripe for re-development.

Before houses are erected, whether temporary or permanent, consideration should be given to the order of priority for letting and I suggest the first priority should be all families that have no house of their own, plus a small number for tenants living in unfit houses which it is impossible to keep in repair. The majority of these will be young persons, a considerable number of the husbands being, at present, members of H.M. Forces.

A test has been made on 1,477 houses out of a total of 3,867 owned by this Authority and it has been found that there are 372 houses occupied by two families, practically the whole of these being young married people.

There are still a number of cases in Council houses with large families where wages are still not high and it is hard to see how these people can do justice to their young families. One thing that always mystifies me is why people with large families should be penalised by being forced to pay large rents. My view is, that rents of all subsidised houses should be the same, there would then be no hardship in accommodating people with young growing families in houses sufficient for their requirements at a rental they can afford to pay and at a time when their needs are greatest.

HOUSING ACT, 1936.

Section 9.

Notices were served in respect of eight houses and the Council carried out the work in default at a total cost of £115-10-0.

Section 11.

An undertaking was accepted in respect of 76, Campbell Street, Brockmoor, that the house should not be used for human habitation.

The house has since been vacated and demolished.

The following houses on which Demolition Orders were operative and which were void have all been temporarily repaired under the Defence Regulations, and are now occupied by persons evacuated to this area :

13, 14, Kinver Street, Wordsley.

43, The Green, Wordsley.

8, Chapel Street, Wordsley.

5a, High Street, Pensnett.

71, Coppice Lane, Quarry Bank.

175, 176, Brettell Lane, Wordsley.

7, Cottage Lane, Brockmoor.

10, Cottage Street, Kingswinford.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

During the year 2,241 pigs were examined at the two bacon factories still remaining under my supervision and this total represents the whole of the animals slaughtered on the premises. 8.6% of these were found to be affected with Tuberculosis. One whole carcase was condemned and 193 carcasses were affected with Tuberculosis in some part or organ. The number in which some part or organ was affected with other diseases was 77.

857 pigs were slaughtered on private premises against 685 for 1942.

Swine fever broke out at premises of a co-operative Pig Club necessitating the slaughter of 122 pigs. 41 of the carcasses were condemned as being unfit for food.

The following is a list of food stuffs condemned at the various shops :

- 179 lbs. Cheese.
- 143 lbs. Bacon.
- 108 lbs. Sausage.
- 70 lbs. Fish (various).
- 10 lbs. Sugar.
- 7 lbs. Semolina.
- 3 lbs. Butter and Margarine.
- 25 lbs. Dried Peaches.
- 1 cwt. Potatoes.
- 2,033 tins Misc. Food Stuffs.
- 13 lbs. Chocolate Biscuits.

As far as possible the whole of these were utilised, either for fat rendering or for feeding of animals, so that, in fact, practically nothing was actually wasted.

The total weight of meat and food condemned (excluding tinned goods) was 2 tons 0 cwts. 0 qrs. 4 lbs.

Fish Fryers.

One application was received for premises to be registered for the frying of fish.

This was a new building with proper facilities for carrying on the business. Registration was granted.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1939.

No.	Article.	Formal	Informal	Remarks.
59	Milk	56	3	Genuine.
1	Do.	1	—	1.9% added water. 7.3% deficient in fat. Appeal to cow sample taken by County Council. Proceedings taken.
1	Do.	1	—	2.6% deficient in fat. Warning letter.
1	Do. (Sterilised) ..	1	—	3.9% deficient in solids-not-fat. Warning letter.
1	Do.	1	—	2.8% added water. 17% deficient in fat. Appeal to cow samples taken by County Council. Proceedings taken.
1	Do.	1	—	Trace added water.
1	Do.	1	—	11.3% deficient in fat. Sample taken at the farm. Warning letter.
1	Do.	1	—	6.3% deficient in fat. Sample taken at the farm. Warning letter.
1	Do.	1	—	5.3% deficient in fat. Warning letter.
1	Do.	1	—	2.6% added water. Appeal to cow samples taken. 2% deficient in solids-not-fat. Warning letter.
APPEALS TO COW.				
2	Milk	2	—	Genuine.
MISCELLANEOUS.				
35	Misc. Foodstuffs ..	—	35	Genuine.
1	Variety Flavour Cordial	—	1	Incorrectly labelled. Soft Drinks Order, 1943. Warning letter.
2	Egg Substitute Powders	—	2	Deficient in available carbon dioxide. Stocks disposed of.

One sample of an article sold as "Frozen Lollipops" was submitted for analysis. The report stated that the article contained 99.64% water and .36% solids and that there was no injurious substance in the sample. The matter was reported to the Ministry of Food for their consideration as to whether the manufacture of the article infringed their regulations.

During the year 53 samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination and set out below is a table showing analysis of results :

Plate counts in 1 c.c.				B. Coli content in			
Under 30,000	30,000 to 200,000	200,000 to 500,000	Over 500,000	Nil.	1/10th c.c.	1/100th c.c.	1/1000th c.c.
21	19	8	5	18	9	5	23

The whole of the samples with a count of over 500,000 were samples taken from bulk supplies coming into the area from the Milk Marketing Board.

Of the 23 samples which contained B. Coli in 1/1000th of c.c., 16 of these were produced outside the area, 13 being from Depots supplied via the Milk Marketing Board.

14 samples were submitted for the Phosphatase test, 11 of these being satisfactory and 3 unsatisfactory.

In addition 6 samples of milk, produced in this areas, were submitted for examination and guinea pig inoculation for the detection of tuberculosis. All samples were negative.

Water Supply.

During the year 13 samples of water were taken and examined by the Analyst and Bacteriologist. The whole of these, with one exception, were satisfactory and were as follows :—

Piped supply	..	..	..	..	..	9
Swimming pool	..	..	..	..	..	2
Shallow well	..	..	..	..	..	1

One sample from a spring which supplied water to a dairy showed evidence of sewage pollution ; this supply was cut off and a main supply provided.

Milk and Dairies.

Registration under the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, and the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

(a)	Retailers of loose milk	..	..	..	..	34
	Retailers of sterilised milk (shops)	..	..	..	..	257
(b)	Producers, Dairy men or Wholesalers	..	..	..	..	34

Licences issued under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936 :

Supplementary —

Accredited	Nil
Tuberculin tested	3
Pasteurised	4

Dealers —

No licences issued.

No. of cowsheds on the register 17

One application was received for a person to be registered as a Retail Purveyor of milk. Registration was refused until a proper dairy was provided. This was erected and registration granted.

Two applications were received in respect of premises to be used as cow sheds. In both cases the premises were not suitable and the applicants erected new cow sheds and dairies. The premises were registered.

One retailer of milk came before the Committee and was warned for retailing milk in a dirty condition.

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919.

During the year the Minister of Food, under the Infestation Order, directed this Authority to carry out a survey and this work was passed on to my department to be dealt with. Some difficulty was experienced in carrying out the survey, due to lack of staff, but eventually the work was completed (January, 1944).

Previous to this Order the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919, had been administered by the County Council. The Powers under this Act have now been delegated to this Authority.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Collection and Disposal of House Refuse.

The total number of employees in the Public Cleansing Department are as follows :

Men	34
Women	13
Boys	2

There are 11 members of the Cleansing Department at the present time in H.M. Forces.

Vehicles.

The following vehicles are employed in the Cleansing Department :

S.D. Freighters	..	..	3
S.D. Gully Emptier	..	..	1 (dual purpose).
Morris	..	..	2
Ford	..	..	1
			<hr/>
			7
			<hr/>

Collection.

House refuse collection has been maintained fortnightly in spite of labour shortage. Owing to the fact that the majority of the young men have been taken into the Services, a number of men over sixty years of age have had to be put on this work and in spite of this the service has been carried out with very few complaints. I think a word of praise is due to these men for carrying on the job week in and week out in all weathers in so satisfactory a manner.

Disposal.

The whole of the refuse collected has been disposed of by tipping at the Wallows Estate, one tip only, being used. Whilst this has made some of the journeys a trifle long it has enabled controlled tipping to be carried out satisfactorily with the labour available. Two men only have been employed here, it not being possible to provide more, but they have dealt with the refuse in an extremely satisfactory manner, the tip being a credit to their perseverance and interest.

Street Sweeping.

Street sweeping has been considerably curtailed due to the number of sweepers having to replace men called to H.M. Forces from the refuse collection service. It was not possible to replace these men through the Employment Exchange.

Gully Cleansing and Cesspool Emptying.

This work has been maintained throughout the year.

Some difficulty was experienced during the year in obtaining ash receptacles where the existing ones ^{were} worn out and eventually the Council decided to assist Owners by providing the bins and charging the cost to them. In all 472 bins were provided. Unfortunately a considerable number of these were of the black japanned type of light gauge. These are most unsatisfactory — the life of the majority of these will not exceed two years.

The Public Health Act, 1936, empowers Local Authorities to provide and maintain ash receptacles at an annual charge not exceeding 2/6 per bin. By taking advantage of this Local Authorities can obtain uniformity of type and quality of ash receptacles, and I hope that as soon as hostilities cease your Council will agree to adopt such a scheme for their area.

SALVAGE.

The total amount of materials salvaged and returned to industry was 1,162 tons, equal to 58 lbs. per head of the population, against 1,263 tons for 1942. Income being £4,677 against £5,201.

There was a decrease in paper collected of 50 tons and tins also showed a decrease over the previous year. Against this kitchen waste increased by 70 tons.

The following are the weights of the materials salvaged during the twelve months, 1st April, 1943, to 31st March, 1944.

	Tons
Paper	309½
Tins	174½
Metal	37
Broken Glass	103
Condemned Meat	1½
Household Bones	14
Textiles	34
Bottles	30
Jars	34
Kitchen Waste	400½
Rubber	11
Batteries	11
	<hr/>
	1,162
	<hr/>

The statement of income and expenditure below has been prepared by the Treasurer and shows a surplus of £413 which is, in my view, extremely satisfactory especially when one considers that the provision of a weighbridge and building costing approximately £300 has been paid for out of income. Further, the haulage cost charged in

respect of vehicles is at the rate of 4/6 per hour in spite of the fact that two of the vehicles were purchased out of salvage income in 1941/42.

EXPENDITURE.		INCOME.	
	£		£
Salaries and Wages ..	1,914	Waste Paper	2,467
Superannuation	59	Textiles	499
Repairs and Maintenance		Bottles, and Broken Glass	
of Buildings	55	Jars	639
Haulage	1,120	Scrap Metal	94
Weighbridge	150	Tins	273
Materials and other expenses	823	Bones	66
Equipment purchased ..	143	Kitchen Waste	595
Surplus	413	Batteries and Tyres ..	43
		Ministry of Supply —	
		Service collection allow. ..	1
	<u>£4,677</u>		<u>£4,677</u>

Petroleum Act.

There are 98 licenced premises to store petroleum spirit in the area, the total amount licenced being 88,200 gallons.

In addition, 5 licences to store Calcium Carbide were issued, the total amount being 16,128 lbs.

H. J. PARKER,
 Chief Sanitary Inspector and
 Cleansing Superintendent

